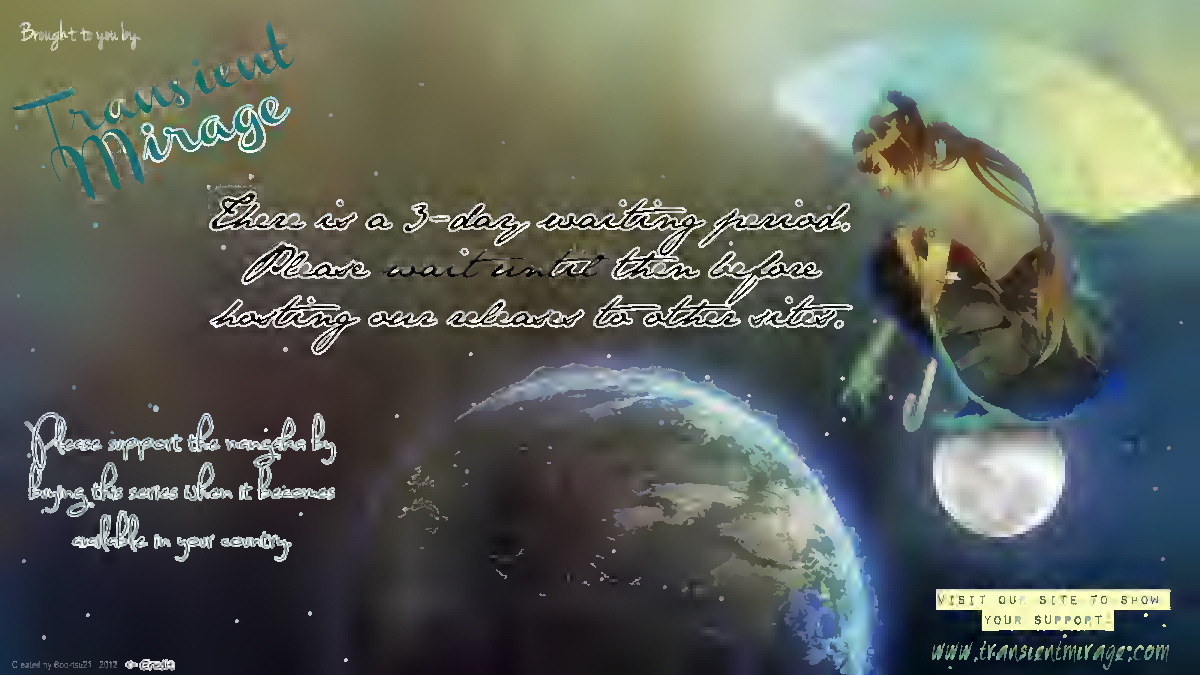
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TRANSIENT MIRAGE

THE ROSE PRINCESS'S AWAKENING

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PLEASE JOIN US!

SFX: FAST HEART BEAT
GO FIND HER!
THE PRINCESS IS...
ROSE-HIME HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY...!?
ABOUT TO MARRY...!!

Having been imprisoned and played with, the blossom still blooms until today
The Rose Princess's Awakening
Keiko Ishihara

I HAVE LOST ALL I LOVED MOST.
6 YEARS BEFORE, MOTHER AND FATHER, THE KING AND THE QUEEN, PASSED AWAY IN A LANDSLIDE INCIDENT.
NOT LONG AFTER, UNDER THE POWER POLITICS IMPOSED BY THE PRIME MINISTER KREGEL,
THE PEACEFUL LEOTNIA CEASED TO EXIST.
BOOM
BOOM
MY BELOVED BROTHER AIN
HAS ALREADY
HOW DOES THE 6 YEARS ABSENT FRESH AIR FEEL?

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
YES
TO MARRY THE PRIME MINISTER'S ELDEST SON
GOING BACK TO ROYAL CASTLE...?
I AM IMPRISONED IN THE CONVENT...
THIS IS...?
IT'S MY CARRIAGE'S BACK CONTAINER
—YEAH—
AFTER THIS SETTLED MARRIAGE WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY,
THE PRIME MINISTER HAS EVEN MORE CHANCES OF TRULY GETTING THIS COUNTRY
I WILL JUST BE USED AS THE PUPPET QUEEN

BUT UNFORTUNATELY THIS MARRIAGE HAS BEEN STOPPED.
IF ONLY I COULD DISAPPEAR
HE IS RIGHT!
NO CAN DO SPEED UP, BALUT.
I WAS DRUGGED!
PLEASE PLEASE STOP THE CARRIAGE!
GOT IT!
PLEASE DON'T TIE YOURSELF UP WITH ME!
I KNOW MANY HAVE DESTROYED THEIR LIVES BECAUSE OF THEIR DISCONTENT TOWARDS THE PRIME MINISTER!
YOU'RE STILL AS EASILY SCARED AS BEFORE...

TAP
WE CANNOT LET THE PRINCESS FALL INTO THE ENEMIES' HANDS!
TAP
SEND THE ELITE GUARDS!!
TAP
IS... HE...?
I HAVE 'A CERTAIN SOMEONE'?
I WAS ASKED BY A CERTAIN SOMEONE TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR PRISON.
NICE TO MEET YOU, PRINCESS.
I AM ARZEL.
ANY SOLDIERS COMING?
THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY
AS BEFORE?
HIS HAIR AND EYES...
WHO ARE YOU...?

I STILL REMEMBER
THE SCOUT HAVING BEEN FOR YEARS
HE EXPLANATION OF THE 'INCIDENT' AFTER BEING FORCED OUT TO THE BORDER CITY
HAS BEEN TALL AND STRONG
HE HAS BEEN DEAD FOR OVER HALF A YEAR...
...WHAT'S WRONG...?
LITTLE BROTHER...
IT'S AS IF HIS CORPSE...
HIME-SAMA!!
EH?
MUNCH
MUNCH
IF YOU DON'T EAT YOU WON'T STAND THE LONG JOURNEY!
JOURNEY?
WE MUST GET TO THE KITANO CASTLE, WHERE GENERAL TALZ IS.
HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS ENOUGH POWER TO OPPOSE THE PRIME MINISTER.
BUT BECAUSE THE KING TRUSTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S LIES,
HE IS NOW IN A POSITION WHERE HE GAVE UP ON ADVISING THE ROYAL FAMILY.

IF ROSE-HIME ASKS FOR HIS HELP...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
THERE HAVE BEEN UNCOUNTABLE REBELLION PLANS THAT HAVE BEEN CRUSHED
ALL THE PEOPLE RELATED TO IT HAVE BEEN KILLED
ARZEL.
YOU MUST REALLY CARE ABOUT THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE, RIGHT?
EVEN IF IT'S FOR THAT PERSON...
PLEASE DON'T INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH ME ANYMORE
...
I HAVE A SICK SISTER.

Sob
I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR THE TREATMENT SHE NEEDS
THAT IS WHY I URGENTLY NEED THE PAY FOR TAKING YOU THERE.
Sob
SHE IS MY ONLY FAMILY
I
Sob
Mmm
Mmm
...WILL GO!
PLEASE,
BUT THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE.
IF YOU ARE IN DANGER, PLEASE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
PLEASE, DON'T DIE!

SO
MY JOURNEY TOWARDS THE KITANO CASTLE BEGAN
NEVER BEING ABLE TO FEEL AT EASE
I PROMISE YOU.
ROSE-HIME.

Aaah
THERE'S A SEARCH POST HERE TOO
ALL THE ROADS THAT CROSS THE MOUTAIN ARE BLOCKED
WHAT SHOULD WE DO
THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER ROAD...
Fufufu
SUCH A NEGATIVE PERSON
THAT'S WHY YOU AREN'T POPULAR BALLIT.
I MEAN!
NOW IS THE TIME
OPENS
TO GO TO THE VERONICA BAR, ISN'T
ARA! ARZEL! BALLIT!
LONG TIME NO SEE

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CONTACT US VIA ONE OF THOSE FOUR IF YOU WANT TO HELP US!
WE'LL BE WAITING!
SO?
WHICH GIRL DO YOU WANT?
ARA ARA! YOU BROUGHT A GIRL WITH YOU...
I WANT VERONICA.
TO DELIVER A BLOSSOM, I NEED TO CROSS THE MOUNTAIN...
THEN PLEASE GO UP TO THE 2ND FLOOR.
HELP HER CHANGE HERSELF.
AH!
IT'S OKAY. WE KNOW.
ARZEL HAS PREPARED THIS PLACE AS A BASE FOR MANY YEARS.
HIME-SAMA...

MANY YEARS...?
NE...
YOU ARE GOING THERE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, RIGHT?
Gre
Bs
YOU MUST KILL HIM!!
MY LOVER WAS FORCED TO GO TO WAR BY HIM!
I BEG OF YOU!
WE...
AIN!
HAVE NEVER WON THE WAR...NOT ONCE
ONEE-CHAN.

I COULDN'T RECOVER ONEE-CHAN'S HAIR BAND...
THOSE THINGS DON'T MATTER!
THEY ARE JUST LIKE THEIR PARENTS, THEY BEHAVE SO RECKLESLY
THE BOYS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S FAMILY...!
YOU
YOU LOT...
LEAVE IT TO ME!
I WILL
PROTECT ONEE-CHAN!!
AIN WAS...
NOT A BOY WHO LET GO OF HIS WORD EASILY
YOUR HIGHNESS,
COULD YOU PLEASE HELP GUARD IN THE BORDER CITY?
I CANNOT LEAVE MY SISTER ON HER OWN!

BUT I, KREGEL, WILL BE EXTREMELY WORRIED.
Ba
WOULD HIS HIGHNESS SUFFER THE SAME FATE
IN THIS CITY AS YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.
Thump
YET I
AIN...
GO...
GAVE UP.

SFX: BANG!
I TOLD YOU! YOU CANNOT COME IN HERE!
RESISTANCE EQUALS REBELLION AGAINST THE COUNTRY!
ARE YOU HIDING A GIRL DRESSED IN A WHITE GOWN!?
SHUT UP AND GO AWAY!!
PUSH
YOU CANNOT GO OUT THERE!
ARZEL ...
BUT THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF ME!!
STO...

IT IS ALL BECAUSE OF ME!
ALL!!
ROSE.
ALL OF IT...!!
LET ME BREAK YOUR CURSE.
EH...?
SFX: JUMPS

ARZEU
!?
SWOOSH
I WILL NOT DIE
I PROMISED YOU.

EEEEEEEK!
THE OLD STREET!
DID YOU FIND AN ESCAPE WAY!?
I HAVE!
PREPARE TO GO BALUIT!
No! No! No! No! No! No! No!
ISN'T THAT THE SE, SE, SE, SEALED CLIFF!!?
IF THERE IS A ROAD THEN WE CAN CROSS IT!

DON'T GIVE UP!
SO FAR YET

I STOLE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE.
THIS IS THE BOTTLE
WITH THE POISON INSIDE IT, I CAN...
THIS WAS MY INITIAL PLAN
BUT
ARE THERE...
OTHER WAYS OUT..
EVEN IF THERE AREN'T, WE CAN MAKE THEM UP.

MY CURSE... WHAT IS IT?
IT IS
A SHAMEFUL CURSE THAT MAKES ONESELF SINK IN IT.
IT IS
ALL THE PEOPLE RELATED TO ME WILL HAVE BAD LUCK!
HA HA HA!
Sha, shame-ful.
IT'S A JOKE!
Hahaha
WANT TO BECOME AS STRONG AS YOU!
I...

EATING AND SLEEPING IS VERY IMPORTANT!
THEN START EATING!
I...I DIDN'T MEAN THAT...
More like that!
JUST LIKE YOU HAVE TO KEEP SMILING.
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
Rustle
UNBELIEVEABLE
YES,
ARZEL.
SIZZLE
SIZZLE

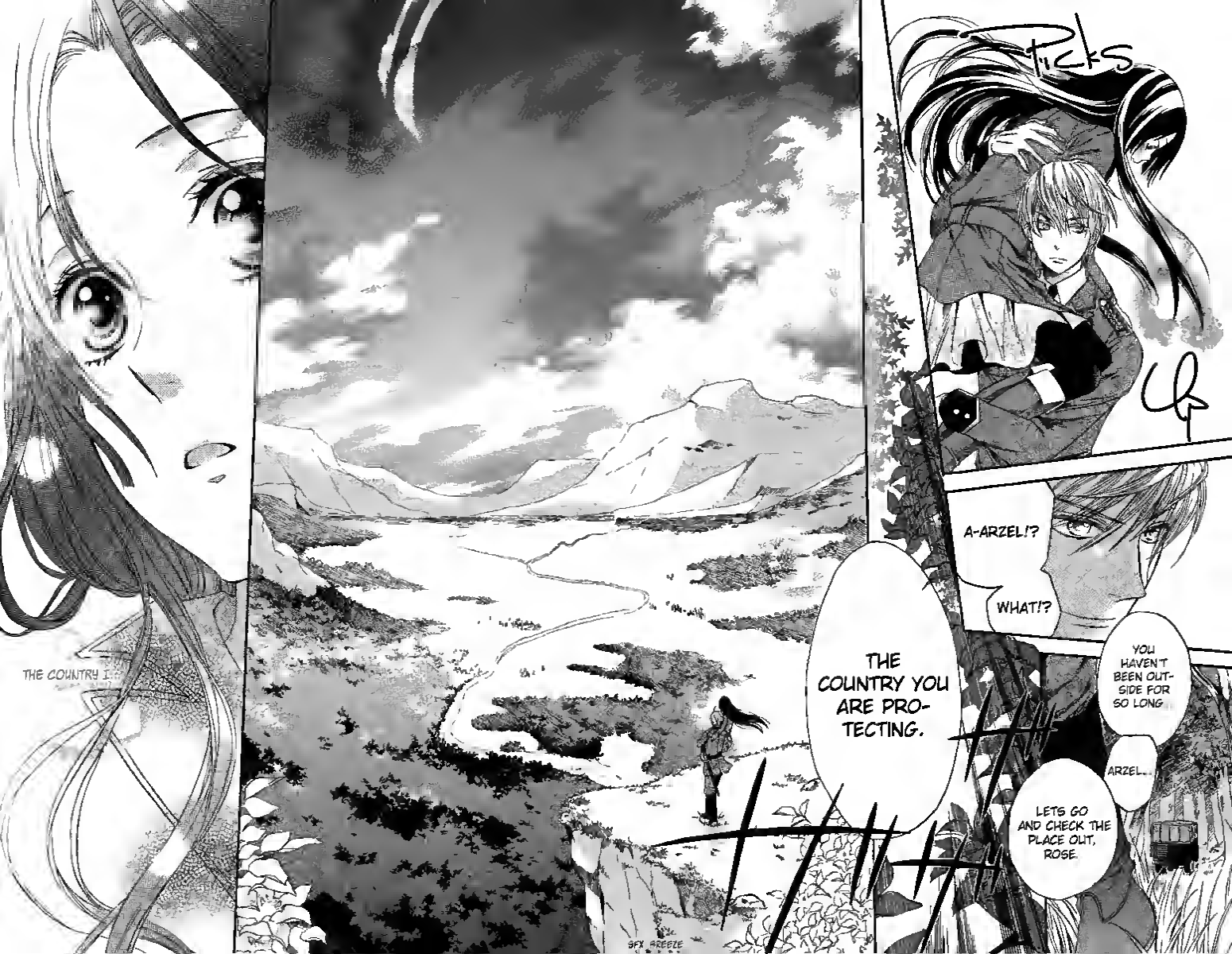
BALUT!
EH?
AH—!
LET ME HELP!
? ? ? ?

EVEN IF IT'S A SMALL SCRATCH, IT COULD BECOME A BIG PROBLEM!
COULD...
ARZEL!
..SORRY...
IT'S NOT A VERY DEEP WOUND, ROSE.
YOU KNOW MANY THINGS, ROSE...
Sigh
I...DON'T HAVE A SICK SISTER.
I LIED TO TAKE YOU OUT.
ACTU-ALLY
THERE IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR
EH?
REALLY?
I'M HAPPY I'M OF HELP!
I learned some of this in the comment!

SL
SORRY.
THIS MUST BE AN UN-FORGIVABLE LIE...
APS
IT IS BETTER THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A SICK SISTER!
ROSE...
ARZEL...
BUT, THE LIES SHOULD STOP HERE, DON'T YOU THINK?

EH?
THANK YOU AND SORRY
drop
EH?
drop
EH
HERE.
I JUST PICKED THEM UP!
DIDN'T YOU LOVE BLACK-BERRIES?
I'LL GO STAND GUARD..
Blush
Blush
WHEN I AM WITH ARGEL
THE FEELINGS I THOUGHT WERE DEAD SEEM TO COME BACK
THE WARMTH...
I LIKE IT
SO HAPPY...
SO PRETTY...

LIKE.
SHOCK
SHA
SHA
SHA
REGARDING THE PRINCESS'S KIDNAPPING
IT WAS DECIDED THAT MORE PERSONNEL WILL BE ADDED TO THE SEARCH
YOUR HIGHNESS KREGEL...
WHAT HAP-PENED?
NOTH-ING
BALUT IS PREPARING THE FIRE...
ROSE..
SHOCK


Ticks
A-ARZEL!?
WHAT!?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUTSIDE FOR SO LONG.
ARZEL...
LETS GO AND CHECK THE PLACE OUT, ROSE.
THE COUNTRY YOU ARE PROTECTING.
THE COUNTRY I...
SFX BREEZE

SO...
-- AM PROCTECTING.
SO BIG!
ARZEL,
I...
SO PRETTY...!

Ba-thump
I'M SO SCARED ARZEL
AREN'T YOU SMIL-
YOU'RE ALL HAPPY BECAUSE YOU ARE HIGH UP HERE.
I'M SCARED.
WHEN I'M WITH ARZEL I LOVE THINGS EVEN MORE.
YOU'RE SUCH A KID.
SO SCARED...!

DON'T DISAPPEAR.
DON'T LEAVE ME
I LOVE YOU.
PLEASE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, ROSE.
RUSTLE.

THERE'S NOBODY IN THE TRUCK.
THEY CAN REALLY HIDE WELL...
THE ELITE GUARDS!
I WAS RIGHT IN COMING HERE. LET'S GO DOWN THE HILL QUIETLY.
BUT ARZEL...
THEY AREN'T VERY SMART, DON'T WORRY.
Badump
Badump
Badump
Badump
Crack...
Fall
ARZEL!
Crack...!

THERE!!
ARZ...
!!
NO...
ROSE...
A...
HOLD YOUR BREATH.
THEY'RE GOING TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE RIVER!
STOP! YOU'LL HIT THE PRINCESS..
HOW COULD I!?
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANYTHING
I DON'T...
SFX: BANG

NOT AGAIN...
Drop
Drop
Drop
IT'S OKAY, ROSE. AS LONG AS WE CAN GET BACK TOGETHER WITH BALUT...
KITANO CASTLE IS JUST AHEAD.
DON'T WORRY
SFX THUD, THUD
Shh
Shh
Shh
I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE ROYAL CASTLE...

I REALLY DON'T
KNOW ANY OTHER WAY TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY...
SO...
THANK YOU ARZEL!
WITH MY LIFE
FOR HELPING ME GET OUT.
LET ME PROTECT YOU!
PLEASE LET ME!
AIN,
NEVER GAVE UP!
ROSE!

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SENT TO THE BORDER CITY.
HE STILL TRIED TO GATHER FORCES TO SAVE YOU.
ALTHOUGH BAD LUCK MADE HIM PASS AWAY,
...WHO
ARE YOU..?
HE IS STILL FIGHTING!!!

...ARZEL SIDNEY.
PRIME MINISTER KREGEL SIDNEY'S YOUNGEST SON.

THANKS TO AIN...?
I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO STOP FATHER AND BROTHER WHO WENT MAD FOR POWER.
HE KNEW EVERY-THING.
I HAD BEEN SECRETELY HELPING HIM
THANKS TO AIN'S HELP,
WHY... WHY...
THU
MP

LIVING IN THAT ALWAYS TOGETHER, YET COLD, AND FULL OF HATRED FAMILY...
I YEARNED FOR THAT WARMTH BE-TWEEN
I HAVE ALWAYS...
YOU AND YOUR BROTHER.
FOR YOU.
I WANTED TO BECOME YOUR KNIGHT JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER!
LIKED THAT ABOUT YOU...
AIN...

I WANT TO...
GO BACK TO THE ROYAL CASTLE
YOU REALLY CAN'T TEAM UP WITH THE ENEMY'S SON...
IT'S NOT THAT!
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP...!
YOU NEVER GAVE UP...
YOU...
ARZEL..
I WILL BE THE BAIT. YOU'LL ESCAPE.
AFTER THAT,
EVEN BROUGHT THIS PERSON TO MY SIDE
SOMEDAY, YOU WILL COME AND SAVE ME.
Ain

WON'T LOSE FAITH ANY-MORE...
MY KNIGHT.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU,
BE IT 10 YEARS OR 20 YEARS,

THIS WILL BE A GRAND AND MAG-NIFICENT WEDDING,
MY PRINCESS.
I PROMISE YOU, ROSE-HIME.
FIGHT FOR YOUR BELIEFS
FOR YOUR LOVED ONE'S HAND

ABOUT THE ABDUCTION INCIDENT,
MY SON WAS REALLY RUDE..
HE WAS A SON WHO MADE OUR FAMILY ASHAMED.
BUT NOW WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM ANYMORE.
BA
HE AND HIS CAR WENT DOWN A CLIFF.
HE WILL NOT BE APPEARING ANYMORE.
THUMP
COME.
JOIN MY SON IN FRONT OF THE COUNTRY.
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
BATHUMP

Breath...
I PROMISE YOU, ROSE-HIME.
THAT WASN'T AN ABDUCTION NOR AN ESCAPE.
Clack
I, WHO HAD LOST ALL FAITH AND CLOSED MY EYES
THAT WAS THE JOURNEY OF MY AWAKENING
FROM THE LIFE THAT EQUALED DEATH.
YET NOW ..

THIS MEETING WAS ALL THANKS TO YOU.
AIN.
I WON'T CLOSE MY EYES ANYMORE
TOWARDS
TOWARDS THE SIDE OF THE PEOPLE I PROTECT.
COME.

MY FAITH..

I HAVE COME TO SAVE YOU ROSE!

!
THESE ARE ALL THE REBELS FROM EVERY PARTY
AND MANY... OTHERS.
THIS ARMY'S... NUMBER...
I WASN'T GOING TO DO THIS EITHER.
TALZ...
THE ONE WHOM THE ROYAL FAMILY REFUSED TO HAVE ANY RELATIONS WITH! WHY YOU...!
TO MAKE HIM GO AWAY I TOLD HIM TO SAVE THE PRINCESS ON HIS OWN. HE ACCEPTED WITHOUT A HINT OF WORRY ON HIS FACE
EVEN THOUGH HE COULD FAIL. EVEN THOUGH HE COULD DIE
EVEN IF I REFUSED TO, HE'D GATHER MORE PEOPLE AND COME AGAIN.
Fu
Fu
6 YEARS!!
THIS IDIOT HAS BEEN ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS NAGGING ME ABOUT THIS!
Fu

YOU..
I COULDN'T BE UNMOVED!
THIS IDIOT NEVER GAVE UP...
LOST TO THIS ROYAL SIBLING!

YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE, ARZEL!
YES.
WHAT SHOULD OUR NEXT PROMISE BE?
I JUST WANT YOU TO LIVE HAPPILY BESIDE ME...
I CAN'T JUST FULFILL ONLY THIS PROMISE!
OH YES!
LET'S GO SOMEDAY TO THE BORDER CITY.
WE'LL HAVE BALUT AS THE DRIVER. THE THREE OF US
TOGETHER, CHASING AIN'S MEMORIES!
ONE DAY...

THE TIGHTLY CLOSED BLOSSOM
WILL BLOOM!
EMBRACING THE NEVER-ENDING STRENGTH.
FOREVER
OPENED.
The End